

Remarks

Response to Restriction

The Examiner has issued a requirement for restriction of the pending claims, dividing the claims into eight groups:

- I. Claims 1-11, drawn to a soil amendment composition;
- II. Claims 12-25, drawn to a process of making a soil amendment;
- III. Claims 26-31, drawn to a method for increasing water retention properties of soil;
- IV. Claims 32-36, drawn to a method for providing trace metal nutrients to soil;
- V. Claims 37-39, drawn to a method for bioremediation of soil;
- VI. Claims 40-43, drawn to a method for bioremediation of water;
- VII. Claims 44-46, drawn to a method for reducing toxins in soils; and
- VIII. Claims 47-51, drawn to a method for reducing toxins in groundwater.

In response, Applicants elect, without traverse, the inventions of Group I, claims 1-11.

Applicants note that claims 26-31 were canceled in a preliminary amendment filed concurrently with the filing of this application, as the subject matter of those claims was prosecuted in the parent application, now U.S. Patent No. 6,649,740.

Status of the Claims

Claims 26-31 were previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 12-25 and 32-51 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1-25 and 32-51 are in the case.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for examination on the merits and immediate allowance. Such favorable action is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any

questions or comments that might help the claims more quickly proceed to allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned is welcome.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 8, 2007